Bjoerndalen Sweeps Competition

the podium after the mens 10 km sprint races on Friday.

Bjoerndalen edged out teammate Frode Andresen for first place after missing one target in the standing position.

Andresen finished 12.6 seconds behind Bjoerndalen for second. Germany's Frank Luck finished third and shot perfect in the shooting range. Poiree was fifth with a time of 23:18.5.

Hakkinen had his best finish of the competition, finishing 33rd. Teela was 47th, Redman was 78th, and Rosser was 83rd.

Uschi Disl of Germany won the womens 7.5 km sprint competition, with Norway's Liv Grete Skjelbreid-Poiree finishing second. Andrea Henkel of Germany was third.

Forsberg dropped into seventh place after missing two targets, which cost her time in the penalty loop.

American's Steer and Nahrgang finished 29th and 60th.

After the sprint races, the top 60 competitors were invited back to Saturday's pursuit races.

Saturday's race was a dead giveaway from the get go, as Bjoerndalen came out of the starting gate and never looked back. He finished the race in a time of 30:58.2, missing only one target in the standing position.

Vadim Sashurin of Belarus finished second, after starting the race in the fourth position, and Russia's Pavel Rostovtzev, was third, after starting as the ninth man out.
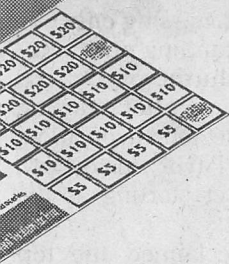
Forsberg reclaimed the top spot during the womens pursuit races. She finished the race 24 seconds ahead of Skjelbreid-Poiree, and 34 seconds ahead of France's Corinne Niogret, who finished third.

Steer, coming out of the gate in the 29th position, finished the race for 35th place. Nahrgang had a personal best shooting day and finished 43rd, with only one penalty in the range.

The Scandinavian athletes couldn't have asked for a better finish, and the USA could be proud for what they accomplished.

Most of the World Cup athletes will return next year for the 2002 Olympic Winter Games next February.

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